

Montana DEQ Forest Fire Smoke Advisory

July 30 2007

10:00 AM Monday

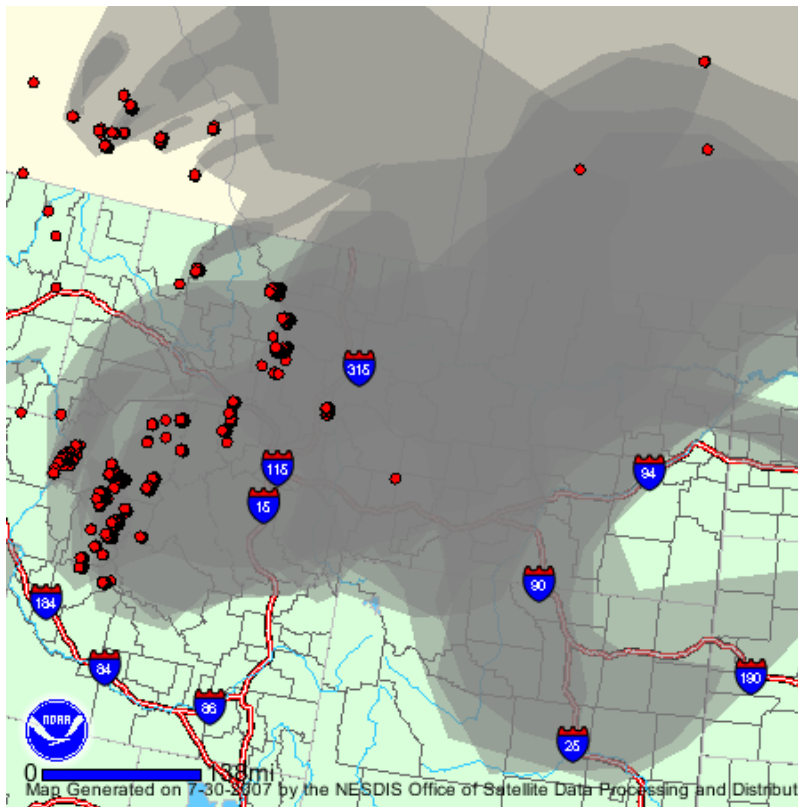
Current Situation

Cut Bank has been squarely in the path of the plume from the Skyland fire south of Glacier Park since late last night. The plume is easily visible on this morning's satellite photo. The smoke level in Cut Bank was up to [VERY UNHEALTHY](#) for about an hour early this morning. At 9 am the plume had drifted away from Cut Bank and conditions had improved dramatically. Smoke conditions all along the Front Range area are a problem with [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) levels measured in Choteau and Augusta. Areas being directly impacts by smoke plumes in that area are expected to be [UNHEALTHY](#) or worse. Residual smoke aloft is blanketing broad portions of the state today producing [MODERATE](#) levels in many areas along with generally hazy skies. Whitefish, Kalispell, and Butte are at [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) this morning, Smoke conditions in the Rock Creek and Clark Fork Valleys south of Missoula are expected to be [UNEALTHY](#) or worse from the fires southeast of Missoula. A smoke plume can also be seen drifting east of the Brush Creek Fire west of Whitefish which appears to be impacting the Olney and Stryker areas. Conditions there are also expected to be [UNHEALTHY](#) or worse. [MODERATE](#) smoke levels are being reported at the areas around Polson, Ronan, Missoula, Hamilton, and Helena. Hamilton will likely become [UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE](#) later this morning. Smoke levels are expected to rise later through the morning as the smoke aloft mixes down. See the forecast below for details. Direct smoke impacts from local fires may be severe today. Residents near active fires or experiencing noticeable smoke levels should use the [VISIBILITY GUIDELINES](#) to determine smoke levels in their area and guide their activity decisions.

Morning satellite photo centered on Great Falls:



This morning's analysis from NOAA's satellite services division shows the active fires in Montana and the smoke plumes combining and spreading downwind(the analyzed smoke is based on yesterday's satellite coverage, the fire detects are based on last night's satellite coverage)



Red indicates hot spot detected. Grey represents smoke seen by satellite. Fire size is exaggerated for visibility at this scale

To identify individual fires on graphic above go here:

http://activefiremaps.fs.fed.us/lg_fire2.php

NWS ASOS visibility monitors, and USFS remote access Nephelometers and BAMS.

This morning's smoke report is below, comparing particulate levels where we have information to MDEQ's Forest Fire health advisory levels.

Updated 10 AM July 30, 2007

Locations and severity of forest fire smoke reports since midnight of the date above at reporting stations.

HAZARDOUS		
VERY UNHEALTHY	Cut Bank vis(1)	
UNHEALTHY		
UNHEALTHY FOR SENSITIVE GROUPS	Whitefish T1 Kalispell T1 Choteau T8 Augusta T8 Butte T24	
MODERATE	Whitefish T24 Kalispell T24 Polson T24 Ronan T24 Missoula T24 Hamilton T24 Helena T24	T1(x) One-hour TEOM or BAM value (number of values) T8(x) Eight-hour average TEOM or BAM value(number of values) T24 24 hour average TEOM or BAM value Vis(x) Visibility value(number of hours) Vis(am/pm) Visibility value from twice/day reporting stations (est) estimate

Local impacts in areas immediately adjacent to active fires are expected to exceed some or all of the advisory levels. DEQ recommends the use of local [visibility guidelines](#) to evaluate possible health risks and make informed activity decisions.

Forecast

Smoke continues to pour into the state from Idaho and Oregon and this elevated background pollution combined with smoke from the increasing number of fires in the state may produce very high levels of smoke at the surface in many areas across the state today. The smoke aloft will mix down through the morning causing widespread intermittent impacts at the surface this morning, especially under the thickest parts of the plume aloft. Smoke level will improve in most areas this afternoon as the dispersion improves. Southwest transport winds will drive smoke from the active fires to the northeast later this morning. This will clear some areas but bring smoke into other communities that have so far escaped direct plume impacts. There is a Red Flag warning out for part of the state today and hot, dry, windy conditions will increase fire activity levels and smoke production this afternoon producing [UNHEALTHY](#) smoke impacts in areas near large fires. Residents in those areas need to pay close attention to conditions in their area and use the [visibility guidelines](#) to guide their activity decisions as the situation changes.

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